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Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits to the General Assembly the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute for the period from August 2013 to July 2014 and the proposed programme of work and financial plan for 2014 and 2015.

The report was considered and approved for submission to the General Assembly by the Board of Trustees of the Institute at the sixty-second session of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, held in Geneva from 2 to 4 July 2014. The Board of Trustees emphasizes the critical role that the Institute plays in supporting the efforts of the international community to move towards disarmament, arms control and peace and security, in view of the limited progress made by other components of the United Nations disarmament machinery. The Board also reiterates its serious concern about the impact on the Institute as a result of both the continuing adverse financial situation and the limited size of the subvention from the United Nations regular budget allocated towards meeting the costs of the Director and the Institute staff. The Board of Trustees therefore recommits to its responsibilities as outlined in article III of the Statute of the Institute, and has made appropriate recommendations with a view to ensuring the effectiveness and continuity of the Institute's operations.

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Report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute for the period from January to December 2013 and the proposed programme of work and financial plan for 2014 and 2015

Summary

The present report covers the activities of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) between January and December 2013, the ongoing and proposed programme of work and financial plan for 2014, and the proposed programme of work and financial plan for 2015. It was prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 39/148 H, in which the Assembly invited the Director of UNIDIR to report annually to the Assembly on the activities of the Institute. The present report highlights the achievements of the Institute during the above-mentioned period, as well as its current institutional and financial situation.

The work of UNIDIR is divided into five research programmes: weapons of mass destruction, weapons of societal disruption, security and society, emerging security threats, and process and practice. UNIDIR promotes progress on disarmament, arms control, peace and security in a number of ways, including offering analyses of current security problems, with a focus on policy-oriented solutions and working closely with Member States to support ongoing negotiations.

During 2013, UNIDIR conducted 13 individual projects, held 21 conferences and seminars and issued 24 publications. UNIDIR staff also participated in many conferences held by partner organizations, such as Chatham House, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, the Geneva Forum, the University for Peace and Wilton Park. In addition, UNIDIR staff contributed to efforts to break the stalemate at the Conference on Disarmament by advising Conference presidencies and working directly with Geneva-based representatives of Member States. All projects due to be finished in 2013 were successfully completed; the Institute's goal of increasing the number of its events and publications was also successfully met.

With regard to the 2014 programme of work, as of the end of April 2014, UNIDIR had seven projects under way, had published two reports and had held 11 events. Four more projects, seven publications and seven events are in the pipeline, with either partial or pledged funding. A number of other projects, events and publications are in the initial planning stages. In addition, UNIDIR was selected as the expert consultant for the group of governmental experts that has been requested to make recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to but not negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The first session of the group was held in Geneva from 31 March to 11 April 2014; the group will also meet during 2015. UNIDIR will also serve as the expert consultant for the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security scheduled to meet from July 2014 through 2015.

As the current Director will be departing the Institute on 31 December 2014, the specific priorities of the 2015 programme of work will be decided by the incoming Director. Currently, a minimum of 20 projects, activities and papers across

the five programmes of work are foreseen, with an emphasis on continuing the themes for each programme launched in 2014.

The present report also contains information on the status of voluntary funds received from Governments and other sources, which cover the vast majority of the budget of the Institute and finance all its operational activities. As voluntary funds have traditionally come from only a handful of Member States, UNIDIR has been actively seeking to expand its donor base as part of its resource mobilization strategy. Contributions earmarked for projects have continued to rise slightly, despite the fact that there is increasing competition for a smaller pool of available funding. However, non-earmarked contributions for Institute staff and support continue to decline. About 85 per cent of the Institute's annual income is earmarked for specific projects and includes restrictions on funding for overhead support, which includes the planning, management, administrative and other institutional activities necessary to give effect to its programmes and outputs. The growing gap between institutional support and project funding is unsustainable and must be addressed.

The present report highlights the continuing importance of the subvention from the United Nations regular budget. The subvention guarantees the independence of the Director of UNIDIR, and it has been repeatedly recommended by Member States, the Board of Trustees and the General Assembly that it should help to defray the Institute's staffing costs.

The Director notes that, in recent years, the subvention from the regular budget has not been able to cover the costs of institutional (i.e. non-project) staff. In 2014, the subvention will only cover 84 per cent of the costs of the Director.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 68/247, approved a subvention to UNIDIR of $577,800 for the biennium 2014-2015. In its resolutions 60/89 and 65/87, the Assembly recommended that the Secretary-General implement the relevant recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the decisions of the Board of Trustees on the funding of the Institute, within existing resources.

I. Background

1. The present report covers the activities and financial status of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) during the period January to December 2013, the ongoing and proposed programme of work and financial plan for 2014 and the proposal for 2015.

2. UNIDIR was established in 1980 (see General Assembly resolution 35/152 H) and its statute was approved by the Assembly in 1984 (resolution 39/148 H). Under the statute, the Institute, as an autonomous research institution within the United Nations framework, is mandated:

(a) To provide the international community with more diversified and complete data on problems relating to international security, the armaments race and disarmament in all fields, particularly in the nuclear field, so as to facilitate progress, through negotiations, towards greater security for all States and towards the economic and social development of all peoples;

(b) To promote informed participation by all States in disarmament efforts;

(c) To assist ongoing negotiations on disarmament and to continue efforts to ensure greater international security at a progressively lower level of armaments, particularly nuclear armaments, by means of objective and factual studies and analyses;

(d) To carry out more in-depth, forward-looking and long-term research on disarmament, so as to provide general insight into the problems involved, and to stimulate new initiatives for new negotiations.

3. For more than 30 years, UNIDIR has been at the forefront of efforts to create holistic approaches to disarmament, peace and security — focusing on human security, bridge-building and raising awareness about the need for cross-stakeholder cooperation. This highlights the unique role of UNIDIR as a trusted member of the United Nations system and disarmament machinery, but at the same time as a source of independent information and analysis and as an agent of change. In an era in which much of the United Nations disarmament machinery remains critically challenged, the contributions of UNIDIR to progress on arms control, disarmament and security are ever more important.

4. As the global financial crisis continues to affect many States, ministries of foreign affairs are seeing staff reductions and budget cuts. Thus, the services provided by UNIDIR for the diplomatic, policy and practitioner communities are in demand more than ever before.

A. Vision statement

5. The driving vision of UNIDIR is that of a world in which human security is ensured, where peace prevails over conflict, weapons of mass destruction are eliminated, conventional arms proliferation is avoided and reduced military spending accompanies global development and prosperity, as envisioned in Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations. UNIDIR thus seeks to serve as a progressive agent of change aimed at meeting those goals.

B. Mission statement

6. The mission of UNIDIR, as an autonomous research institute within the United Nations, is to assist the international community in creating and implementing solutions to disarmament and security challenges. Through its research and educational efforts, UNIDIR seeks to advance arms control and disarmament, contribute to conflict prevention and promote the development of a peaceful and prosperous world. UNIDIR strives to anticipate new security challenges and threats, and to develop possible methods to address them before they become critical. Finally, UNIDIR serves as a bridge — both among United Nations disarmament, security and development organizations and between the United Nations system and the broader security community — to create the necessary synergies to address and mitigate the effects of insecurity at the international, regional and local levels.

II. Programme of work

A. Performance information (based on actual accomplishments between January and December 2013)

7. Through its research, analysis, educational activities, convening power and consulting services, the Institute serves as the only United Nations think tank on arms control, disarmament and international security. The work of UNIDIR is divided into five research programmes: weapons of mass destruction, weapons of societal disruption, security and society, emerging security threats, and process and practice. This structure ensures that UNIDIR addresses a wide range of security issues, as foreseen in its mandate, provides easier entry points for users of the research conducted by the Institute and helps donors to focus on their areas of interest.

8. In 2013, UNIDIR conducted 13 individual projects, held 21 conferences and seminars, and issued 24 publications. UNIDIR staff also participated in myriad conferences held by partner organizations such as Chatham House, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, the Geneva Forum, the University for Peace and Wilton Park. In addition, UNIDIR staff contributed to efforts to break the stalemate at the Conference on Disarmament by advising conference presidencies and working directly with Geneva-based Member State ambassadors and representatives. UNIDIR staff also conducted a number of consultancy and advisory meetings with various Member States.

1. Weapons of mass destruction

9. The mandate of UNIDIR gives high priority to work aimed at the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. Projects under the weapons of mass destruction programme are described below.

(a) Transparency and accountability in nuclear disarmament

10. The project on transparency and accountability in nuclear disarmament, begun in 2012, explored legal and practical measures to expand to other nuclear-weapon States the transparency and verification arrangements that were developed as part of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on

Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (the New START Treaty). A two-part study entitled *A New START Model for Transparency in Nuclear Disarmament* and an online case study were published as planned in early 2013.

(b) Promoting implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

11. UNIDIR, in conjunction with the Geneva Forum, held as planned six meetings in 2012 and 2013 on 12 specific subjects related to the action plan on nuclear disarmament agreed at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The objective was to support diplomats preparing for the meetings in the period 2012-2014 of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference. Each meeting was attended by approximately 70 Geneva-based diplomats. In April 2013 UNIDIR also co-sponsored a briefing on issues related to negotiations on a fissile-material treaty.

12. UNIDIR collaborated with the Federation of American Scientists and the Natural Resources Defense Council on a study promoting de-alerting of nuclear weapons as one of the next key steps in promoting disarmament and the goals of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. A report, *Reducing Alert Rates of Nuclear Weapons*, was produced as planned in early 2013.

13. In October 2013 UNIDIR co-sponsored, with Canada and the Netherlands, a briefing on the margins of the First Committee of the General Assembly on the topic "Fissile material cut-off treaty: the group of governmental experts and beyond".

(c) Support for the Open-Ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament

14. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/56, established an Open-Ended Working Group to take forward proposals for multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament. UNIDIR was requested to assist the Chair in conducting the Group's work, including through the provision of a background paper and the participation of three Institute experts as panellists for the Working Group's discussions, held between May and August 2013.

(d) Improving implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

15. In early 2013, UNIDIR produced as planned a study entitled *A Peer-Review Mechanism for the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention*, aimed at exploring how a process of peer review could help States parties to improve their implementation of the treaty and promote confidence in compliance.

(e) Supporting the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

16. In 2013, UNIDIR and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) began planning a structured programme of cooperation for the period 2013-2014 designed to support OPCW as it shifts the focus of its activities. The first joint briefing, held in The Hague in February 2013, was entitled "The Chemical Weapons Convention: the new agenda".

2. Weapons of societal disruption

17. The use of conventional weapons in conflict zones has an immediate impact on local societies. The project under the weapons of societal disruption programme is described below.

Supporting the Arms Trade Treaty

18. UNIDIR began work in 2008 to support the process of developing an arms trade treaty. During 2012 and 2013, UNIDIR worked closely with Member States to support regional dialogue on specific areas of contention within the draft treaty language. In April 2013, the second round of negotiations successfully produced the first-ever treaty setting international standards for regulating the trade in conventional arms. UNIDIR, through the Geneva Forum, established the Arms Trade Treaty Network to create a "safe space" for States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to discuss issues related to the entry into force and implementation of the Treaty. The design and activities of the Network, which is based in Geneva, are modelled on the successful precedent of the Geneva Forum's work on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

3. Security and society

19. UNIDIR was a pioneer in developing thinking about disarmament as a human security issue, coining the expression "disarmament as humanitarian action" in 2003 for a project of the same name. The interface between security and local communities and the individual is the focus of the security and society programme. Projects are described below.

(a) Humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons

20. In its first phase of work, from January to July 2013, the project on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons focused on examining contemporary developments in the discourse on nuclear weapons. Among its outputs, the project produced three analytical papers and a volume of diverse perspectives that complement and extend aspects of discussions at an international conference on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons held in Oslo on 4 and 5 March 2013. The project's first publication, *Viewing Nuclear Weapons Through a Humanitarian Lens*, was released at a side event of the First Committee of the General Assembly in New York in October 2013. In August 2013, UNIDIR had already commenced the second phase of research, examining the challenges to United Nations emergency preparedness and humanitarian coordination and response in the event of nuclear weapon detonations. That research, the results of which are to be published in July 2014, is being conducted in cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

(b) Weaponizing increasingly autonomous technologies

21. The development of autonomous robotic weapons systems raises not only profound questions about the future conduct of warfare, but also societal, ethical and moral questions. The UNIDIR seminar on lethal autonomous robots held on 23 May 2013 was designed to bring together human rights and disarmament

practitioners to begin a cross-stakeholder dialogue on this complex issue. A briefing entitled "Lethal autonomous robotics: shared concerns, different approaches", was held on the margins of the First Committee in 2013. As part of the preparatory phase of the project for 2014, UNIDIR, in partnership with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, convened an expert meeting in December 2013 on armed drones and robots in the context of international law.

(c) Disarmament education

22. In fulfilling its mandate to provide the international community with more diversified and complete data, studies and analyses, UNIDIR considers disarmament education to be a key pillar of its activities.

23. In 2013, the Institute began publishing a series of concise briefings on disarmament and security issues, entitled "Understanding disarmament". Each volume is devoted to a single topic and covers key historical elements, the current state of affairs, significant controversies or differences in positions on the topic, potential next steps, key terminology and suggested further reading. While the primary audience for the series is disarmament decision makers and practitioners, "Understanding disarmament" will be a useful tool for students and members of civil society looking for an entry point to these issues.

24. The "Understanding disarmament" series is designed for production in an electronic book format, readable on mobile devices. In addition, UNIDIR will actively encourage the translation of the volumes into languages other than English. The first volume, "Negotiation of a ban on the production of fissile materials" was published in mid-2013.

4. Emerging security threats

25. One of the strengths of UNIDIR is its role as a sort of early warning system for trends that could become serious threats to international peace and security. Projects under the emerging security threats programme are described below.

(a) Cybersecurity

26. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/24, a group of governmental experts was established in 2011 to study threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, including norms, rules or principles of responsible behaviour of States and confidence-building measures. UNIDIR was selected as consultant to the group, a role it played in the successful meetings of the group of governmental experts in 2010 and 2011 on the same topic. The group issued its report in September 2013.

27. In 2012 and 2013, UNIDIR worked with the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy of the University of Hamburg on a first-of-its-kind, open-source survey of State activities and multilateral efforts to avoid conflict in the cyber domain. The study, which was envisioned as the foundation for an annual survey, was published in early 2013.

28. A seminar on the topic "Cyberthreats: information as a weapon?" was held in New York on 9 October 2013 as a side event of the First Committee.

(b) Space security

29. The theme of the annual UNIDIR space conference, held in Geneva on 2 and 3 April 2013, was "Space security 2013: enhancing confidence, ensuring space stability". In Geneva on 4 April, at the request of the Group of African States, UNIDIR provided a special, in-depth briefing on space security to members of the Group of African States, designed to raise awareness and begin capacity-building within African nations on issues surrounding space security.

30. With the support of the European Union, UNIDIR is working to build international understanding of, and support for, a code of conduct for outer space activities, through a series of regional meetings, background papers, expert consultations and support activities. In 2013, five regional seminars were held as planned: in Bangkok, Astana, Mexico City, Kyiv and Addis Ababa. In addition, the project produced 12 background papers and seminar reports.

31. UNIDIR acted as a consultant for the group of governmental experts on transparency and confidence-building measures for outer space activities, mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/68, which successfully completed its work in July 2013.

5. Process and practice

32. The UNIDIR process and practice programme assesses the implementation and results of disarmament instruments, develops targeted tools to assist implementation efforts and recommends improved processes and better methods of stakeholder cooperation and collaboration. The objective is to help policymakers and operational personnel to create more cost-effective programming that can achieve maximum impact. Projects are described below.

(a) Evidence-based programming design for reintegration

33. In August 2011, UNIDIR initiated a project on evidence-based programme design for reintegration, in direct support of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration for the period 2011-2013. Building upon the "best process" approach developed by UNIDIR, the project was designed in three phases, two of which have been completed. In the first phase, completed in 2012, a framework was developed for working with evidence in the design of reintegration programming; in the second phase, initiated in April 2012 and concluded in August 2013, that approach was translated into a prototype tool and process for reintegration practitioners. The prototype was published in late 2013 as planned, and an event showcasing the work was subsequently held in Geneva.

(b) Supporting the use of the International Small Arms Control Standards

34. UNIDIR and the Monterey Institute of International Studies are establishing concrete indicators for each module under the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS), implemented by the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) initiative, to assist with the implementation of global commitments to control small arms and light weapons through a comprehensive yet easy-to-use software tool. Following the successful building of a prototype in 2012, the tool was validated and tested, including in field tests in a number of countries and areas (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Montenegro, Nepal, Somalia,

South Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago and Kosovo)[1] during 2013. The final product will allow the user to generate statistics on implementation efforts, prioritize critical areas, measure implementation trends over time and identify areas for improvement. This will assist in promoting ISACS as the normative basis for assessing, evaluating and reporting on national efforts to control small arms and light weapons.

(c) Geneva Forum

35. UNIDIR is a founding partner of the Geneva Forum, along with the Quaker United Nations Office and the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. Through its public briefings and private workshops, the Geneva Forum offers a unique "safe space" for policymakers and practitioners to build arms-control agendas and support current negotiations. The Forum holds informal meetings and seminars, including an annual orientation for diplomats newly based in Geneva and charged with arms-control issues. The Forum has traditionally placed heavy emphasis on issues related to small arms, and in 2013 the focus was on the Arms Trade Treaty and the establishment (with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy) of the Arms Trade Treaty Network.

B. Resources and expenditure for 2013

36. The planned income of UNIDIR for 2013 was $1,358,200; actual income was $3,145,900; and total expenditure was $3,059,400, as shown in table 1. About 85 per cent of the voluntary funding of UNIDIR is in the form of earmarked funds for specific projects. Projects and activities receive funding on a rolling basis throughout the year. Thus, annual and biennial budgeting is of an indicative nature. Advance planning figures are based on an assessment of the Institute's desired accomplishments for the year and an assessment of historical trends in funding.

Table 1
Income and expenditure for 2013
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Description	*Initial estimates*	*Actual*	*Difference (shortfall)*
Funds available at the beginning of the year	1 423.7	1 998.6	574.9
Income:			
Voluntary contributions and public donations[a]	980.9	2 789.7	1 808.8
Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	301.2	285.9	(15.3)
Other inter-organization contributions	36.1	33.1	(3.0)
Interest income	20.0	14.4	(5.6)
Miscellaneous income	20.0	22.8	2.8
Total income	**1 358.2**	**3 145.9**	**1 787.7**

[1] All references to Kosovo in the present document should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Description	*Initial estimates*	*Actual*	*Difference (shortfall)*
Prior-period adjustments	0.0	0.0	0.0
Refund to donors	(116.9)	(143.2)	(26.3)
Total funds available	**2 665.0**	**5 001.3**	**2 336.3**
Institutional expenditure:			
Staff and other personnel costs[b]	1 310.7	1 178.3	(132.4)
Institutional travel	15.9	18.4	2.5
Operating expenses	53.9	93.8	39.9
Project-related costs:			
Staff and other personnel costs[c]	494.6	1 244.3	749.7
Travel	77.2	159.1	81.9
Contractual services	17.4	9.8	(7.6)
Acquisitions	13.0	42.8	29.8
Fellowships, grants and other	344.2	155.3	(188.9)
Total direct expenditure	**2 326.9**	**2 901.8**	**574.9**
Programme support costs	101.3	157.6	56.3
Total expenditure	**2 428.2**	**3 059.4**	**631.2**
Fund balance at the end of the year	**236.8**	**1 941.9**	**1 705.1**

[a] See annex II for details of voluntary contributions in 2013.
[b] A decrease of $132,400 between the initial estimates and the actual institutional staff costs results from the departure of two core staff members during 2013.
[c] An increase of $749,700 between the initial estimates and the actual project staff costs reflects the minimal provisions made for research programmes in 2012.

C. Current status of planned activities and financial situation for 2014

37. It should be noted that several projects funded and started in 2013 were still ongoing in 2014. The completion of the UNIDIR programme of work for 2014 will be dependent on the securing of funds throughout the year for planned projects, as set forth below.

1. Weapons of mass destruction programme

38. UNIDIR has been asked to serve as the expert consultant for the group of governmental experts that is to "make recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to but not negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices" (General Assembly resolution 67/53). The first session of the group was held from 31 March to 11 April 2014. The second session will be held from 11 to 22 August 2014, and two more sessions will be held in 2015.

39. UNIDIR, in cooperation with the International Panel on Fissile Materials, held a side event on practical steps towards nuclear disarmament at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held from 28 April to 9 May 2014.

40. On 25 and 26 June 2014, UNIDIR held a one-and-a-half-day conference on the subject of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

41. In 2014 UNIDIR is planning to launch a project on nuclear safety and security in the Gulf region; a follow-up to the nuclear transparency project; and a one-and-a-half-day conference on moving forward with nuclear disarmament.

2. Weapons of societal disruption programme

42. UNIDIR is implementing the Weapons and Ammunition Management in Somalia project in 2014, assisting the Federal Government of Somalia in strengthening its physical security and stockpile management practices and in building the capacity of its security institutions for effective weapons and ammunition management. The Project is being implemented following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2093 (2013), by which the Council partially lifted a 20-year-old arms embargo on Somalia in order to strengthen the Federal Government's capacity to combat insurgents and protect the Somali people. A technical workshop was held on 21 and 22 January 2014, with the participation of the Federal Government of Somalia, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, the United Nations Mine Action Service and UNDP. The capacity-building report was launched in May 2014. In response to the interest expressed by other countries and United Nations agencies, follow-up activities are being planned with a particular focus on stockpile security and diversion.

3. Security and society programme

43. Staff of the project on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons took part in a conference hosted by Mexico on 13 and 14 February 2014. A study on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons, with a focus on emergency preparedness, will be published in July 2014. Owing to the great interest expressed by Member States, the project, initially due to be wrapped up in August, is now planned to continue with a follow-on effort. It will still be ongoing in December 2014, when a conference is to be held in Vienna, and in 2015, when the Review Conference of the Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty will be convened.

44. Under the Weaponization of Increasingly Autonomous Technologies: Implications for Security and Arms Control project, a group of experts from various disciplines has been established to explore aspects of this emerging issue. The group held its first meeting on 19 and 20 March 2014. The second meeting was held on 19 and 20 May 2014, and the first framing paper was subsequently released. At least one more meeting and paper are being planned for 2014, with additional activities dependent on the securing of new funding. In addition, UNIDIR was invited to make a statement on its work during the informal meeting under the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects held from 13 to 16 May 2014.

4. Emerging security threats programme

45. The annual UNIDIR cyberstability seminar was held on 10 February 2014, on the topic "Preventing cyberconflict". The annual UNIDIR space security conference was held on 19 and 20 April 2014, on the topic "Implementation and compliance". A project to refine and digitize the cybersecurity index, launched in 2013, is in its first phase, and a prototype design is slated to be produced by October 2014. Efforts to secure funds for a follow-on phase to build and test the prototype are under way.

46. At the donor's request, the project on a proposed international code of conduct for outer space has been extended through August 2014. Plans are being considered for a follow-on project.

47. Project development is under way on water scarcity and security in the Middle East and North Africa; risks in modern life sciences; clarifying national sovereignty issues in cyberspace; and a legal analysis of armed conflict in outer space.

48. UNIDIR was selected as the expert consultant for the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security. The first meeting will be held from 21 to 25 July 2014; the Group will remain active through 2015.

5. Process and practice programme

49. UNIDIR will conduct regional capacity-building workshops in 2014, as part of its ISACS assessment tool project (third phase), aimed at establishing a global network of institutions that are capable of providing tailored training on the UNIDIR-developed ISACS software to their beneficiaries, including States.

50. UNIDIR is working through the Geneva Forum to establish the 2014 activities of the Arms Trade Treaty Network. A planning meeting was held on 7 February 2014 and another meeting on 15 April 2014. UNIDIR is also developing a separate project on weapons diversion, related to the Arms Trade Treaty.

51. UNIDIR is continuing its cooperation with the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration. The third phase of the evidence-based design project will carry out pilot testing of the prototype and undertake capacity-building for evidence-based programme design in field offices beginning in October 2014.

52. The financial expenditure for the proposed programme of work of UNIDIR for 2014 is projected at $2,783,700, as reflected in table 2 .

Table 2
Projected activities and financial plan for 2014

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Description	*Projections for 2014*[a]	*Actual figures for the period 1 January-31 March 2014*	*Difference (shortfall)*
Funds available at the beginning of the year	1 941.9	1 941.9	0.0
Income:			
Voluntary contributions and public donations	2 748.3	375.7	(2 372.6)
Subvention from the United Nations regular budget[b]	280.8	280.8	0.0
Other inter-organization contributions	27.1	0.0	(27.1)
Interest income[c]	14.0	0.0	(14.0)
Miscellaneous income	18.6	0.0	(18.6)
Total income	**3 088.8**	**656.5**	**(2 432.3)**
Prior-period adjustments	1.6	1.6	0.0
Refund to donors	(50.2)	(50.2)	0.0
Prior-period obligations	16.9	16.9	0.0
Total funds available	**4 999.0**	**2 566.7**	**(2 432.3)**
Institutional expenditure:			
Staff and other personnel costs[d]	1 043.1	513.9	(529.2)
Institutional travel	15.7	0.0	(15.7)
Operating expenses	51.8	0.0	(51.8)
Project-related costs:			
Staff and other personnel costs	1 214.5	536.5	(678.0)
Travel	118.7	20.8	(97.9)
Contractual services	75.7	30.0	(45.7)
Acquisitions	15.8	0.0	(15.8)
Fellowships, grants and other	106.3	0.0	(106.3)
Total direct expenditure	**2 641.6**	**1 101.2**	**(1 540.4)**
Programme support costs	142.1	37.7	(104.4)
Total expenditure	**2 783.7**	**1 138.9**	**(1 644.8)**
Fund balance at the end of the year[e]	**2 215.3**	**1 427.8**	**(787.5)**

[a] The projections for 2014 were based on the average for the period 2008-2013, plus 1 per cent, except for the regular budget subvention, interest income and institutional staff costs (see footnotes b-d).

[b] In its resolution 68/247, the General Assembly approved a subvention for $577,800 to UNIDIR for the biennium 2014-2015. The initial allotment for 2014 is $280,800.

[c] The ratio of the interest income for 2013 to the opening balance for 2013 was used to make the projection of the interest income for 2014 and 2015.

[d] For further details, see annex I.

[e] Includes the required operating cash reserve (15 per cent of direct expenditure, less the United Nations regular budget subvention and 5 per cent of direct expenditure for contributions from the European Union).

D. Projected activities and financial plan for 2015

53. With the forthcoming departure of the Director of UNIDIR at the end of 2014, the specific priorities for the 2015 programme of work will be the prerogative of the incoming Director. Currently, a minimum of 20 projects, activities and papers across the five research programmes are foreseen, with an emphasis on continuing the themes established in 2014. For example, transparency and confidence-building measures in relation to nuclear disarmament will continue to be a key theme of the 2015 work programme. In particular, during the first half of the year UNIDIR will seek to support States as they prepare for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. In addition, as a new thematic area of work, UNIDIR intends to consider how to address security issues in relation to the post-2015 development agenda.

54. The financial expenditure to support the 2015 programme of work is projected at $2,991,800, as shown in table 3.

Table 3
Proposed activities and financial plan for 2015

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Description	*Projections for 2015[a]*
Funds available at the beginning of the year	2 215.3
Income:	
Voluntary contributions and public donations	2 775.8
Subvention from the United Nations regular budget[b]	297.0
Other inter-organization contributions	27.4
Interest income[c]	16.0
Miscellaneous income	18.8
Total income	**3 135.0**
Prior-period adjustments	1.6
Refund to donors	(50.7)
Prior-period obligations	17.1
Total funds available	**5 318.3**
Institutional expenditure:	
Staff and other personnel costs[d]	1 233.9
Institutional travel	15.9
Operating expenses	52.3
Project-related costs:	
Staff and other personnel costs	1 226.6
Travel	119.9
Contractual services	76.4
Acquisitions	16.0

Description	*Projections for 2015*[a]
Fellowships, grants and other	107.3
Total direct expenditure	**2 848.3**
Programme support costs	143.5
Total expenditure	**2 991.8**
Fund balance at the end of the year[e]	**2 326.5**

[a] The projections for 2015 are based on the projections for 2014, plus 1 per cent, except for the United Nations regular budget subvention, interest income and the institutional staff costs (see footnotes b-d).

[b] Represents the balance of the amount approved for the subvention to UNIDIR for the biennium 2014-2015, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/247.

[c] The ratio of the interest income for 2013 to the opening balance for 2013 was used to make the projection of the interest income for 2014 and 2015.

[d] For further details, see annex I.

[e] Includes the required operating cash reserve (15 per cent of direct expenditure, less United Nations regular budget subvention and 5 per cent of direct expenditure for contributions from the European Union).

III. Resource mobilization strategy

55. Throughout 2013, UNIDIR continued its focus on broadening its donor base. The Institute considers it crucial to have the widest possible donor base as a reflection of its mandate to serve all Members of the United Nations.

56. In 2013, at the request of the Department of Management, UNIDIR developed a proposal for a sustainable funding model for the Institute, comprising the regular and extrabudgetary funding required to achieve its mandate and objectives. That proposal was reviewed by the Board of Trustees at its sixtieth session and was provided to the Deputy Secretary-General in July 2013.

57. Under the resource mobilization strategy, UNIDIR continues to seek economies through full cost recovery at the project level, as well as institutional processes related to project development and results-based budgeting. It is vital that sustained institutional-level support from Member States continue to ensure that the capacity of UNIDIR to maintain a useful level of assistance to the Member States will not be undermined.

Renewed emphasis on research partnerships

58. In 2013, the Institute prioritized the development of relationships with States in the Middle East and the Gulf States. Institute staff met with representatives of members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in New York in early 2013 and with the Group of Arab States in Geneva and New York in early 2014. UNIDIR is also now participating in the coordinating meetings of United Nations organizations with the League of Arab States.

59. Owing to the unique position of UNIDIR within the United Nations system, partnering with other centres of excellence on disarmament and security research can offer a multiplying effect for both partners. Further, donors are increasingly

encouraging collaborative efforts by research organizations, particularly between national and regional and international organizations, in order to create synergies and optimize investment. In particular, in 2013 the Institute began cooperation with the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. As the Global Partnership seeks to change its focus from primarily field operations to non-proliferation policy development and support, there is great potential for UNIDIR to play a significant role in progress towards the Partnership's objectives. In 2013 and 2014, UNIDIR continued activities with long-standing partners, such as the Monterey Institute of International Studies, the Secure World Foundation, the Small Arms Survey, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Chatham House, VERTIC, the University for Peace and the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy of the University of Hamburg.

60. At the behest of the Board of Trustees, UNIDIR has begun to promote better use of the Institute by Member States and the Secretariat. In particular, in its 2013 report (A/68/206), the Board of Trustees recommended that the Secretary-General commission a study on emerging technologies, with an emphasis on increasingly autonomous weapon technologies, with UNIDIR undertaking a research role. The General Assembly has the possibility of requesting UNIDIR to undertake specific studies or activities. Such a mechanism is provided for in Article 13 of the Charter of the United Nations and in article VII of the statute of UNIDIR. That possibility permits Member States to determine topics for analysis that are of the most value to the majority of them, rather than research topics being predominantly guided by a handful of donors and their preferences. In addition, that mechanism permits a cost-effective and equitable way for all Member States to benefit from independent analysis prior to taking decisions on substantive matters in the General Assembly or its subsidiary bodies.

IV. Communications and outreach

61. One significant indicator of the impact of the work of UNIDIR and the reputation of the Institute is the number of requests for consultative or advisory services. Staff are regularly called upon to advise, consult with or brief interested parties. Requests come from within the United Nations system, from individual Member States and regional groups, from international, multilateral and regional organizations and from research institutes, academic bodies, the media and civil society groups. UNIDIR receives frequent requests for assistance from presidents of the Conference on Disarmament.

62. UNIDIR continues to implement its communications and outreach strategy, with emphasis on developing the UNIDIR "brand" through an emphasis on the Institute's unique role in the international community and the value it adds.

63. A new visual identity was launched in 2013, including a new logo. A new website was launched to make the electronic interface easier to use and introduce innovative functionalities.

64. UNIDIR continues to develop its electronic publication series. All UNIDIR publications are available for download from the Institute's website, in their entirety and free of charge.

65. New electronic products were introduced in 2013, including quick-read codes integrated into UNIDIR flyers and materials and e-books optimized for tablets. The exploitation of social media tools was increased.

66. However, communications and outreach work is being hindered by the loss of one key staff member in 2013, reducing the staff to only one person.

V. Structure, management and staffing

67. As of February 2014, two full-time institutional staff members and one part-time editor were let go owing to funding constraints. The core staff of the Institute — that is, those staff required in order to ensure that UNIDIR functions in compliance with United Nations administrative and financial rules and regulations, to manage researchers and to undertake day-to-day operations such as meeting organization, editing and website maintenance — has reached a critical minimum level. Institutional staffing has now been reduced to the point where further reductions will result in the Institute's inability to support research activities.

68. The Institute staff as of February 2014 comprises the Director, two operational staff and two and a half support staff. The five current researchers and four senior fellows (two in residence) are complemented by consultants and institutions that are commissioned for specific expertise or short-term activities.

69. With the restructuring of the UNIDIR programme of work in 2010, a process was initiated to bring in expertise to develop the new programmatic architecture. The goal of the programmatic architecture was twofold: first, to establish a sustainable pool of expertise that allows consistent development and implementation of research projects and activities; and second, to establish another mechanism for States to contribute to the work of the Institute. However, while the long-term benefits of that architecture to the Institute are apparent, up to now, funding for establishing programmatic staff positions has been elusive. UNIDIR currently employs one full-time and one half-time programmatic lead.

VI. Finances: subvention from the United Nations regular budget and voluntary contributions

70. In accordance with article VII, paragraph 1, of the statute of UNIDIR, voluntary contributions from States and public and private organizations are the principal source of financing.

71. Despite the global financial crisis, voluntary contributions to the Institute have been slowly but steadily increasing. However, owing to increasing administrative costs and increasing national limitations on unearmarked support, the Institute continues to struggle to cover institutional costs. Approximately 85 per cent of all voluntary contributions in recent years have been earmarked for specific projects. On average over the past five years, only 10 per cent of Member States (fewer than 20) contributed institutional, unearmarked funding to UNIDIR. Simply maintaining institutional staff to fulfil financial, administrative and operational requirements costs about $1,200,000 per annum, as compared with income from voluntary sources of about $300,000 in 2013 to support those institutional costs. Part of the resource mobilization strategy has been to better account for the costs of

related institutional staff activities within the budgets of specific projects (as indirect costs). While assisting with cost recovery, this method results in higher project budgets, which is having an increasingly dissuasive effect on potential donors. At the same time, more and more donors have instituted caps on overhead, or now reject all overhead costs, a situation that has undercut the Institute's efforts for cost recovery.

72. Regarding the subvention from the United Nations regular budget, article VII, paragraph 2, of the statute of UNIDIR establishes that the subvention is to be used towards meeting the costs of the Director and the staff of the Institute. However, for many years the subvention has covered, at most, the costs of the Director. Indeed, in 2014, the subvention is projected to cover only 84 per cent of the costs of the Director. The General Assembly, in its resolution 68/247, approved a subvention of $577,800 to UNIDIR for the biennium 2014-2015.

73. Since the inception of UNIDIR and in line with article VII, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Institute, the Secretary-General has sought and obtained approval from the General Assembly for a subvention to the Institute from the regular budget of the United Nations, which is vital for ensuring the independent and continuous nature of the functioning of the Institute.[2] The baseline amount of the subvention has remained relatively constant (with occasional cost adjustments) for more than a decade. Support for increasing the subvention has been expressed by the Board of Trustees and the General Assembly, as well as Member States. Given the financial constraints facing the United Nations, the recommendation of the General Assembly in its resolution 65/87 (in which it recalled its recommendation in resolution 60/89) that the Secretary-General implement, within existing resources, the relevant recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the funding of the Institute, has yet to be considered by the Secretariat.

74. The income that UNIDIR receives through voluntary funding is secured on a rolling basis, as it is primarily project-based. Thus, programme planning is based on projections of Member State needs and previous experience regarding funding levels.

VII. Conclusion

75. The period to 2015 will be extremely active for the disarmament community. It is also a transitional period for the Institute, with the pending change of Director, a situation that brings with it both opportunities and challenges. Building on its 30 years of experience and its global reach, UNIDIR — as a valued and trusted independent voice at the international level — will continue to pursue its mandate to support efforts to make progress towards a peaceful and prosperous world. However, UNIDIR requires increased financial support from Member States and the United Nations to ensure the future viability of the Institute.

[2] The requirement for a subvention was reiterated by the Secretary-General in 2004 (see A/C.5/59/3/Add.1).

Annex I

Projected costs of institutional staff

(Thousands of United States dollars)

2014	*Total net salary*	*Staff assessment*	*Common staff costs*	*Representation allowance*	*Total*
United Nations contracts:[a]					
1 D-2	234.0	34.3	79.5	0.6	348.4
1 General Service	129.5		44.0		173.5
1 General Service, Other level	103.8		35.3		139.1
Director separation costs					33.5
Subtotal					**694.5**
UNIDIR contracts:[b]					
1 P-5	159.4				159.4
1 P-3	111.4				111.4
1 P-3 (part-time)	77.8				77.8
Subtotal					**348.6**
Total					**1 043.1**

2015	*Total net salary*	*Staff assessment*	*Common staff costs*	*Representation allowance*	*Total*
United Nations contracts:[a]					
1 D-2	229.2	34.3	77.9	0.6	342.0
1 P-5	189.1	26.0	64.3		279.4
1 P-3	133.9		45.5		179.4
1 General Service (PL)	130.5		44.3		174.8
1 General Service, Other level	104.6		35.5		140.1
Director installation costs					37.8
Subtotal					**1 153.5**
UNIDIR contract:[b]					
1 P-3 (part-time)	80.3				80.3
Subtotal					**80.3**
Total					**1 233.8**

[a] Based on standard salary costs applicable to Geneva — Version 7.

[b] These contracts were originally designed based on United Nations contracting practices for short-term employment. In recent years, UNIDIR has been advised by the Secretariat that such contracts are no longer appropriate for institutional staff and thus must be converted. The amounts shown are based on previous years' experience — exchange rate of $1 to 0.926 Swiss francs.

Annex II

Details of voluntary contributions in 2013

(United States dollars)

Voluntary contributions	*2013*
A. Governmental contributions	
Canada	5 241
China	19 985
Finland	79 576
France	161 424
Germany	724 548
Holy See	5 000
Hungary	13 569
India	19 127
Indonesia	17 106
Ireland	66 293
Iraq	4 982
Japan	24 698
Mexico	10 660
Netherlands	92 259
Norway	617 911
Pakistan	4 884
Russian Federation	100 000
Serbia	2 000
Switzerland	124 403
Turkey	4 000
United Arab Emirates	10 000
Total governmental contributions	**2 107 666**
B. Intergovernmental contributions	
European Commission	649 868
Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie	3 259
Total intergovernmental contributions	**653 127**
C. Public donations	
Northeastern University	8 073
Simons Foundation	20 000
University for Peace	837
Total public donations	**28 910**
Total voluntary contributions (A+B+C)	**2 789 703**